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Phylogenomics of the killer whale indicates ecotype divergence in sympatry

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Abstract

For many highly mobile species, the marine environment presents few obvious barriers to gene flow. Even so, there is considerable diversity within and among species, referred to by some as the ‘marine speciation paradox’. The recent and diverse radiation of delphinid cetaceans (dolphins) represents a good example of this. Delphinids are capable of extensive dispersion, and yet many show fine-scale genetic differentiation among populations. Proposed mechanisms include the division and isolation of populations based on habitat dependence and resource specializations, and habitat release or changing dispersal corridors during glacial cycles. Here we use a phylogenomic approach to investigate the origin of differentiated sympatric populations of killer whales (*Orcinus orca*). Killer whales show strong specialization on prey choice in populations of stable matrifocal social groups (ecotypes), associated with genetic and phenotypic differentiation. Our data suggest evolution in sympatry among populations of resource specialists.

Keywords: Sympatric speciation; Genomics; Cetacea, RAD-Seq

Introduction

In the marine environment, connectivity is facilitated by the lack of physical barriers across large distances, and yet considerable diversity has evolved within and among species (Palumbi, 1994; Bierne *et al*, 2003). Delphinid species provide a good study system for investigating this paradox due to their recent radiation, great diversity, and the taxonomic complexities of many lineages within the group (Steeman *et al*, 2009; Moura *et al*, 2013). While capable of extensive dispersion (Stevick *et al*, 2002), many cetacean species show fine-scale genetic differentiation among populations (Hoelzel, 2009). In some cases there is a correlation between population structure and apparent habitat boundaries, as for the bottlenose dolphin (*Tursiops truncatus*) populations in European waters (Natoli *et al*, 2005), or with resource specializations as for the killer whale (*Orcinus orca*) populations in the North Pacific (Hoelzel *et al*, 2007). Environmental cycles releasing habitat or opening/closing dispersal corridors may also influence the evolution of population structure in these species (Amaral *et al*, 2012; Moura *et al*, 2013). For killer whales, some well-studied populations show strong resource specializations based on consistent prey choice (ecotypes) within stable, matrifocal social groups (pods), together with genetic and phenotypic differentiation (Hoelzel *et al*, 1998; Pitman and Ensor, 2003; Hoelzel *et al*, 2007; Morin *et al*, 2010). A key question is whether or not differentiation has occurred in sympatry through ecologically-based divergent selection with the potential to lead to sympatric speciation.

In this study we generate the first multilocus phylogeny based on nuclear DNA for this genus, providing an important test of earlier inference based on mtDNA trees (Hoelzel *et al*, 1998; Pitman and Ensor, 2003; Morin *et al*, 2010). We compared high resolution phylogenetic reconstructions for mtDNA (alignment length of 4,370bp) with nuclear sequence phylogenies, built from restriction associated DNA (RAD) fragments (see methods) consisting of a total alignment of 1,730,328 bp, with 5,191 bp being variable among the killer

whale samples. The earlier studies based on mtDNA (based on both Control Region and whole mitogenome studies; e.g. Hoelzel *et al*, 1998; Morin *et al*, 2010) showed that a lineage comprised of the marine-mammal-eating populations in the North Pacific (known as ‘transients’) branched from the most basal node. A later study based on mtDNA proposed that a North Atlantic population was derived from ancestral North Pacific lineages, perhaps during an opening in the northwest passage during the last (Eemian) interglacial (Foote *et al*, 2011a). The authors further hypothesized that two fish-eating populations (known as ‘residents’ and ‘offshores’) represent a later re-invasion of the North Pacific back from the North Atlantic, establishing secondary contact and sympatry between the different ecotype populations (Foote *et al*, 2011a).

An alternative interpretation is that the diversity and distribution of mtDNA haplotypes have been impacted by historical demographic events (Hoelzel *et al*, 2002), and therefore don’t fully reflect the true pattern of phylogeography. The single gene tree represented by mtDNA can also be impacted by simple stochasticity and historical introgression. The mtDNA phylogenies show good support for some lineages that are consistent with geography or ecotype. However, branches are shallow, with the most distinct haplotypes differentiated by only 0.56% (consistent with a loss of diversity during a bottleneck event, as indicated by both mtDNA and nuclear genomic data; Hoelzel *et al*, 2002; Moura *et al*. 2014). To help resolve ambiguities that may have arisen from the analysis of a single gene tree, we generated a phylogenomic analysis and undertook biogeographic analyses comparing inference from the mtDNA and nuclear DNA data. We test the hypothesis that differentiation between ecotypes evolved in sympatry within the North Pacific.

Methods

DNA samples were obtained from archives available from previous studies (Hoelzel *et al*, 2007), and their number and provenance is provided in Table S1. We further included new samples obtained from Marion Island (Southern Ocean), representing an Antarctic lineage (see results). Sampling design was based around the inclusion of multiple geographic populations and ecotypes. Marion Island samples were obtained as biopsies (see similar protocol in Hoelzel *et al*, 2007) from a population of known individuals (Reisinger *et al*, 2011). Fieldwork at Marion Island was permitted by the Prince Edward Islands Management Committee and procedures approved by the University of Pretoria's Animal Use and Care Committee (EC023-10). Sample number and ecotypes included are described in Supplementary Table 1. For the North Atlantic we include samples from Iceland and the UK, representing both of the main mtDNA lineages identified previously for this region (Foote *et al* 2011b).

Nuclear data

Nuclear genome-wide sequence data was obtained through RAD sequencing. The RAD sequencing protocol was modified from the version described by Baird *et al*. (2008) as follows. To reduce the requirements for high levels (30-50%) of the Illumina-supplied control phiX library, the adapter from which the forward read commences (p5 adapter) was modified such that a pool of 4 adapters was employed during the initial ligation to the NotI digested DNA. These 4 adapters allow the start of the forward sequencing read to be staggered, ensuring the complexity of reads was greater over the first 5 bases and therefore improving the ability of the HiSeq instrument control software to differentiate between the

sequencing clusters (see similar approach in Fadrosh *et al* 2014). In addition, a 5' biotin modification in this adapter design allowed for specific selection of adapter ligated sequences. Further, the 8 bp barcodes were added within the p7 adapter region during the PCR amplification step. The index read is performed separately as per any standard Illumina TruSeq library and demultiplexing performed using CASAVA, instead of using the start of the forward reads as a barcode. To determine the success of this approach, an initial pool of 5 libraries generated using both the modified and the Baird et al. (2008) approach were sequenced on 2 separate 2x150 MiSeq runs without the presence of phiX.

Genomic DNA (500ng-1ug) was digested to completion overnight at 37°C with 1-2ul Not 1 HF restriction enzyme (NEB R3189L,20,000u/ml). The complementary adapter sequences were annealed together by mixing the individual compatible oligonucleotides at 10 mM in annealing buffer (100mM Tris pH 7.5, 500mM NaCl, 10mM EDTA). The 4 adapters were mixed in equimolar amounts. 1ul of 100nM adapter mix was used to ligate to Not 1 fragments (from initial starting amount of 500ng and in a volume of 34ul) using NEBnext Quick Ligation module (NEB E6056L). Adapter ligated fragments were sheared to an average size of 500bp using a Covaris S2 sonicator and selected after mixing the sample with streptavidin magnetic beads (Dynabeads® M-280 Streptavidin cat no11205D Life Technologies). Fragmented DNA was A-tailed (NEBNext® dA-Tailing Module cat no E6053L) to make it blunt ended. DNA on beads was ligated to a universal p7 sequence adapter. A series of 47 amplification primers were designed with 8bp barcodes to enable subsequent multiplexing of samples for a single lane of sequencing. A single barcoded primer and a universal primer were used to amplify each sample. Cycling conditions were 98°C for 30 seconds followed by 12-14 cycles at 98°C for 10 seconds, 60°C for 30 seconds and 72°C for 30 seconds followed by an extension at 72°C for 5 minutes and 4°C hold. Samples were purified with AMPure XP (1:1) and beads washed with 80% ethanol. After drying the beads,

samples were resuspended in 22ul of 10mM Tris pH 7.5. Samples were assessed for quantity (Qubit high sensitivity kit – Life Technologies) and quality (Agilent Bioanalyser 2100). A fragment size distribution (‘smear’) analysis was performed for each sample between 400 and 600bp and this value was used to normalize the samples for multiplexing. The pooled samples were size selected on a 1.5% Pippin prep cassette (Sage Scientific). The recovered library pools were assessed by qPCR (KAPA) for quantification. Sequencing was performed as 2 X 100bp paired end reads on 5 lanes of the Illumina HiSeq 2000 using v3 chemistry. For further detail see supplementary methods.

Trimmed short reads were mapped against bottlenose dolphin genome version 1.68 (which does not include mitochondrial DNA sequences; only version 1.72 and higher include this information) using BWA short read mapper (Li and Durbin, 2009). Genotypes were called using a multisample Bayesian algorithm as implemented in the Unified Genotyper module (DePristo *et al*, 2011) from the Genome Analysis Toolkit (GATK) software package (McKenna *et al*, 2010), with a minimum preliminary quality score filter set to 10. The resulting vcf file was processed to remove all positions with average coverage below 20 using VCFtools (Danecek *et al*, 2011), so that the final filtering is at a minimum mapping quality of Q20. All positions with indels were also removed, as were positions for which at least a single individual did not pass the set filters (i.e. all positions with missing data were removed). The resulting VCF file was converted into a fasta file using a custom perl script.

mtDNA

Data from (Morin *et al*, 2010) was used to identify the most informative regions of mtDNA in retrieving the same cetacean topology as from full mitogenomes. A set of 10 primers was designed to target this region using standard PCR and Sanger sequencing (Supplementary Table 2), resulting in a sequence 4,370 bp long. PCR reactions were set up

using 1X Taq buffer, 0.2 mM dNTP's and varying concentrations of Mg⁺, primers and Taq (Supplementary Table 2). Thermocycling conditions were: one initial denaturation step at 95 for 2 minutes, followed by 45 cycles of denaturation at 95 for 30 seconds, annealing at varying temperatures (Supplementary Table 2) for 30 seconds, extension at 72 for 1 minute, and a final extension step at 72 for 10 minutes. Sequences were obtained from 5 Marion Island samples, and one North Atlantic sample obtained in the UK to match the range of lineages represented in the nuclear phylogeny. Corresponding sequences from the other ecotypes were retrieved from (Morin *et al*, 2010), and a bottlenose dolphin sequence was used as an outgroup from (Moura *et al*, 2013).

Phylogenetic analysis

The adequacy of using Marion Island samples as representative of Antarctic ecotypes was assessed by inferring a phylogenetic tree based on the same 4,370bp comparing Marion Island with sequences representative of Antarctic ecotypes from (Morin *et al*, 2010). Nuclear phylogenetic trees were based on contigs up to 1,028bp in length (with 90% of the contig length range within \pm 100bp of the 196bp mode) built using MRBAYES (Ronquist and Huelsenbeck, 2003) under the GTR + G model of evolution (after similar RAD-based phylogenetic reconstructions in Wagner *et al*. 2012). This model allows for rate variation along the sequence, and is therefore appropriate for concatenated alignments such as the one used here. Trials were also run using the GTR + I + G model, and no difference in topology found (data not shown). Two separate runs were started for each of 4 independent chains, 3 of them heated, and runs were considered to have achieved convergence if ESS values were all over 200, the PSRF+ statistic was close to 1, further confirmed by visual inspection of the log-likelihood plots for both runs. For the mtDNA trees, the best fit model of evolution was determined using TOPALI (Milne *et al*, 2009). The initial assessment of the Marion Island

phylogenetic position based on mtDNA was run for 10,000,000 iterations, with the first 25% iterations discarded as burnin. For the main mtDNA tree, MRBAYES was run for 12,000,000 iterations, with the first 25% iterations discarded as burnin.

To assess the bias created by sites potentially under positive selection, all variable positions were extracted using the software SEAVIEW (Gouy *et al*, 2009), and converted into GenePop format using a custom perl script. Signal for selection was investigated using the F_{ST} outlier method implemented in LOSITAN (Antao *et al*, 2008). Mean neutral F_{ST} was calculated using the infinite alleles model, and assuming 9 demes of size 10, following the different *a priori* defined populations (based on the results obtained in Hoelzel *et al*, 2007; Parsons *et al*, 2013): Marion Island, North Atlantic, North Pacific Offshores, Alaskan Residents, Alaska Transients, California Transients, Bering Sea and Russia. Although some sample sizes were small per putative population, this is more likely to artificially inflate F_{ST} , generating false outliers (which would be conservative in this case). An initial run to remove potential selected loci was done to calculate the baseline mean neutral F_{ST} , which was estimated using the bisection algorithm over repeated simulations (Antao *et al*, 2008). 50,000 simulations were run, with a false discovery rate of 0.1. Sites identified as being under positive selection by the LOSITAN algorithm, were then removed from the full RAD alignment, and a new phylogenetic tree was constructed based on the shorter sequence. In both the full dataset and in the trimmed dataset, MRBAYES was run for 1,000,000 iterations with the first 25% iterations discarded as burnin.

Given the known biases that GC rich regions might impose on phylogenetic reconstruction (Romiguier *et al*, 2013), the RAD dataset was further divided between GC and AT rich regions. Reads mapped to consecutive reference positions with a gap of less than 20 bp were assembled into contigs, for which GC content was calculated. Contigs were then pooled into GC-rich and AT-rich alignments based on a 50% GC content threshold. MRBAYES was then

run for 10,000,000 iterations (with 25% burnin) for the full alignment where the evolutionary parameters were estimated independently (using the GTR + G model as described above) for two partitions defined according to GC content. Romiguier et al. (2013) found that for placental mammals the AT-rich regions were ‘better at retrieving well-supported, consensual nodes’, therefore we also constructed a tree using the same methods based only on the AT-rich contigs. Because the enzyme chosen for the RAD library construction (NotI) is GC-rich, the proportion of AT-rich contigs was relatively small (191,544 bp, 1,490 of which were variable).

Further, to assess the effect of concatenating different genomic locations in a single alignment, the CAT-GTR model (see Lartillot & Philippe 2004) implemented with the software PHYLOBAYES (Lartillot *et al*, 2009) was used in the full alignment but considering only variable sites. We focused on variable sites because the software PHYLOBAYES cannot accommodate the full sequence input file. However, for an evolution model based on site heterogeneity this should not affect the topology significantly, though it can be expected to affect branch length. The program was run for 437,000 cycles with 50,000 burnin, with trees recorded every 1,000 cycles. Convergence of the run was assessed through checking ESS values and the stability of the log-likelihood plots after burnin.

Reconstruction of ancestral distributions and dating analysis

To estimate phylogeographic patterns, we applied different ancestral distribution reconstruction methods as applied in the software RASP (Yu *et al*, 2013), for both mtDNA and RAD trees. Phylogenetic trees for this analysis were obtained by building a 50 % majority consensus tree in RASP from all the phylogenetic trees retained after burnin in the MrBayes analysis. Three distributional ranges were considered, Southern Ocean (Marion Island), North Atlantic (Iceland and UK) and North Pacific (Offshores, Transients, Residents,

Russia and Bering Sea). Bottlenose dolphin was used as an outgroup, and defined as occurring in all three areas, and therefore uninformative. S-Diva is a parsimony based method that minimises the number of dispersal and extinction events in a tree (Ronquist, 1997). The maximum number of areas per node was set to 3, and with the "Allow reconstruction" option enabled. Uncertainty was assessed using the S-Diva value (Yu *et al*, 2010) based on all the post-burnin trees inferred by MRBAYES (see above). Additionally, the Bayesian Binary MCMC method was also implemented, which uses a full hierarchical Bayesian approach to quantify uncertainty in the reconstruction of ancestral distributions (Ronquist, 2004). The maximum number of areas per node was set to 3, and the root distribution was set to null, given that the outgroup used has a wider distribution than the 3 considered for the ingroup. Analysis was run with 10 chains, 9 of which were heated, for 1,000,000 iterations with 10,000 burnin.

Dated phylogenies were obtained using BEAST (Drummond *et al*, 2012), by applying a strict clock under a Yule speciation model. . Given the lack of robust and unambiguous calibration points to determine mutation rate in killer whales, our objective was only to gain an idea of the temporal range of possible splitting times using credible mutation rates from the literature (Dornburg *et al*, 2012; Moura *et al*, 2013). For the mtDNA tree, we used a rate of 0.03 substitutions/site/million years after (Moura *et al*, 2013), while for the RAD tree we used a rate of 0.0011 substitutions/site/million years estimated for Odontocetes (after Dornburg *et al*, 2012).

Results

Our mtDNA phylogeny (based on sufficient sequence data to recapitulate the topology of the published mitogenome tree; see methods) was confirmed to provide the same structure and similar inference (Figures 1 & 2) as reported in the earlier studies (Hoelzel *et al*,

1998; Foote *et al*, 2011a; Morin *et al*, 2010). A Southern Ocean population is represented in our tree using samples from Marion Island, which group tightly with the ‘type B’ Antarctic lineage haplotypes (Supplementary Figure 1a).

Reconstruction of the geographical distribution of ancestral nodes based on our mtDNA tree showed some inconsistencies between Statistical Dispersal-Vicariance Analysis (S-DIVA) and the Bayesian Binary (BB) method (Table 1), though both methods suggest colonization of the North Atlantic followed by a later dispersal event from the North Atlantic back to the North Pacific, consistent with the earlier study (Foote *et al*, 2011a). However, there is some indication that the initial dispersal into the North Atlantic is more likely via the Antarctic from this analysis (Figure 2, Supplementary Figure 2), rather than over the pole (as suggested earlier; Foote *et al*, 2011a).

The nuclear data generates a well-supported tree (Figure 1), though the overall level of divergence remains low (0.07% at the deepest node, HKY model based on a distance matrix constructed using GENEIOUS). The killer whale short reads from the RAD sequencing have been deposited in NCBI Genbank in BioProject PRJNA236163. Analysis of the nuclear data using LOSITAN revealed the presence of 365 SNP outliers for positive selection, but removal of these positions did not alter the topology (see Supplementary Figure 1b), so all loci were retained for further analyses.

The topology recovered for the nuclear phylogeny using the full alignment differed from the mtDNA tree in several key respects (Figure 1). Southern Ocean haplotypes that were nested well within North Pacific lineages in the mtDNA tree, now branch from the most basal node, while North Atlantic samples and ‘offshores’ from the North Pacific now form reciprocally monophyletic lineages (Figure 1). The ‘resident’ and ‘offshore’ fish-eating ecotypes are more clearly delineated into separate lineages, and the North Pacific ‘residents’ form a broad lineage with incomplete lineage sorting among regional populations. The

topology of the nuclear tree was robust to partitioning with respect to GC content and to the reconstruction employing the heterogeneous CAT-GTR evolution model, with the exception that for the latter analysis Offshores and North Atlantic haplotypes were not as clearly separated into a bifurcating relationship (Supplementary Figure 2). The AT-rich tree (Supplementary Figure 2) again supported the broader topology, but the ‘offshore’ group clustered with the ‘transients’. The observed discordance between the nuclear and mtDNA phylogenies has been noted earlier in the North Pacific (Pilot *et al*, 2010) and among North Atlantic ecotypes (Foote *et al*, 2009, 2013) based on comparisons between mtDNA control region sequences and microsatellite DNA genotypes.

Reconstruction of the geographical distribution of ancestral nodes also recovered a phylogeographic scenario from the nuclear tree that is distinct from that obtained from the mtDNA data (Figure 2, Table 2). Since the biogeographic inference was the same for the nuclear tree reconstructions based on the full dataset without partitioning, for the partitioned tree based on GC content, for the AT-rich tree and for the CAT-GTR tree (data not shown), we report on the analyses of the full dataset as presented in Figure 1. Both S-DIVA and BB suggested that killer whales expanded from the Southern Ocean into the North Pacific, with North Atlantic ecotypes diverging from North Pacific lineages, and the divergence between North Pacific ecotypes occurring locally in sympatry (Figure 2, Supplementary Figure 3). Ancestry in the Southern Oceans is consistent with the present day abundance of killer whales in the region, and the relative stability of that habitat over the course of the Quaternary (Francois *et al*, 1997; Latimer and Filippelli, 2001). Inference about dispersal and vicariance from the BB model is shown in Figure 2. From the S-DIVA model based on the nuclear phylogeny, North Atlantic ecotypes diverged from North Pacific lineages by dispersal (at ‘2’ in Figure 2a), while the node separating the Southern Oceans from other regions

suggests vicariance (at '1' in Figure 2a). For the mtDNA reconstruction based on S-DIVA the inference is the same as for the BB model.

Discussion

In this study we generate a phylogeny for the genus *Orcinus* based on a large number of nuclear DNA loci. The topology of the nuclear tree was consistent even after partitioning for GC content and testing alternative evolution models. The CAT-GTR tree based only on variable sites showed greater depth (as expected) and poorer resolution of the North Atlantic and Offshore lineages, but retained the key aspects of topology seen in the other tree reconstructions, in particular the position of the Southern Ocean samples from Marion Island. The nuclear trees were based on relatively short, dispersed sequences, but several evolution models that account for rate variation across the sequence were applied and the trees consistently showed the same overall topology. The AT-rich tree again agreed with the overall topology, but grouped the offshores into the same lineage as the transients, a result that is consistent with inference from microsatellite DNA loci in Pilot et al. (2010).

When comparing the nuclear and mtDNA trees, the main differences were associated with the position of the Marion Island lineage, and the strength of support for the offshores as a lineage distinct from the North Pacific residents. Biogeographic analyses suggested a relatively uncomplicated pattern for the establishment of populations, compared to the mtDNA tree. For the nuclear tree, the pattern was consistent with the division of extant North Pacific populations within the North Pacific, and without the need for a period of allopatric divergence in the North Atlantic. Allopatric or parapatric differentiation within the North Pacific is possible, but published data suggest that both local specialization and geographic distance reduce gene flow in a similar way. In particular, sympatric ecotype populations show levels of differentiation comparable to that found between populations of

the resident ecotype either side of the North Pacific, and there is evidence for isolation by distance within an ecotype (Hoelzel *et al.* 2007). It may be that prey choice changes temporal and spatial patterns of habitat use enough to minimize interactions among specialist groups, thereby reducing gene flow without requiring a period of physical isolation. The extensive ranging capabilities of this species also makes allopatric or parapatric boundaries on their own seem less likely drivers within an ocean basin than resource specializations.

Earlier studies indicated ongoing gene flow between North Pacific ecotypes, and suggested that gene flow was generally male-mediated during temporary encounters between matrifocal pods (Hoelzel *et al.*, 2007; Pilot *et al.*, 2010). However, key distinguishing features of the nuclear phylogeny could not be explained by male mediated gene flow following secondary contact. The scenario implicit in the mtDNA phylogeny indicates isolation of a fish-eating form in the North Atlantic, derived from North Pacific ‘transient’ ancestors, and the re-invasion of this form into the North Pacific, now represented by the residents and offshores (which share similar mtDNA haplotypes). However, secondary contact could not explain why the Southern Ocean ecotype branches from the most basal node in the nuclear phylogeny, or why offshores and residents show greater divergence at nuclear loci. Instead the implication is that the mtDNA phylogeny is distorted by historical demography (possibly in conjunction with a bottleneck event, Hoelzel *et al.*, 2002; Moura *et al.* 2014) or other stochastic factors.

The nuclear data suggest North Pacific ancestry of at least some North Atlantic populations, similar to what was proposed based on mtDNA data (Foote *et al.*, 2011a). If movement was across the pole, this could only have happened during interglacial periods when there may have been an open passage. Using a fixed rate clock and a published average substitution rate for the Odontocete nuclear genome (Dornburg *et al.*, 2012), the node defining the separation of the North Atlantic lineage from the North Pacific falls within the Eemian

interglacial (~155 kya; Supplementary Figure 1c). However, the mutation rate applied was derived from relatively deep phylogenetic calibrations. As has been established in numerous publications for mtDNA (see review in Ho *et al.*, 2007), calibrating for more recent events may require the use of a higher mutation rate, typically at least an order of magnitude higher for mtDNA. The correct rate to apply is not known in this case, but an order of magnitude increase would still allow for transfer during an interglacial, just prior to the beginning of the Holocene (~16 kya).

Although sampling was not inclusive of all populations on a global scale, two key aspects of the nuclear phylogeny indicate that inference about differentiation in sympatry is not due to incomplete taxon sampling. First, the North Pacific transient form does not branch from the ancestral node in this tree (a result that further sampling is unlikely to change), and second, the transient and resident types remain reciprocally monophyletic, with the node distinguishing the North Atlantic and North Pacific resident lineages apparently younger than the node that separates them from the transient lineage (Supplementary Figure 1c). Together these factors indicate that transients and residents most likely share ancestry in the North Pacific, and additional details about the relationship among unsampled populations from other parts of the world should not affect this interpretation. The possibility of populations or species differentiating in sympatry has remained controversial, though there are some instances that are now generally accepted (see Bolnick and Fitzpatrick, 2007). In general, most models invoke strong disruptive ecological selection (e.g. in association with differential resource use) together with high initial levels of phenotypic polymorphism, and strong mating preferences (Gavrilets, 2004). Ultimately this process may promote ecological speciation (see Nosil 2012 for various examples), and the possibility of incipient ecological speciation based on the cultural transmission of foraging specialisations has been raised previously for the killer whale (e.g. Hoelzel *et al.* 2002, Riesch *et al.* 2012).

Killer whales feed on a wide variety of prey, however, this diversity results from a range of local specializations on relatively few prey species (de Bruyn *et al*, 2013). These local populations of resource specialists are often genetically differentiated, but as indicated earlier, differentiation between populations of the same ecotype is also seen, and reflects a pattern of isolation by distance (Hoelzel *et al*, 2007). Ecotypes may also exhibit differences in social structure, morphology, behavior, and vocal signatures (see de Bruyn *et al*, 2013 for a review). In the North Pacific, the resident and transient ecotypes occupy largely sympatric distribution ranges (Ford *et al*, 2000), but specialize on very different prey resources (fish and marine mammals respectively; Ford *et al*, 1998; Krahn *et al*, 2007), are genetically differentiated (Hoelzel *et al*, 1998, 2002, 2007), exhibit different social organization (Ford *et al*, 2000), mating systems (Pilot *et al*, 2010) and vocal behavior (Yurk *et al*, 2002; Deecke *et al*, 2005). Less is known about the 'offshore' ecotype, however our data indicate that we need to consider their differentiation in sympatry as well. Krahn *et al*. (2007) and Dahlheim *et al*. (2008) found that 'offshore' killer whales feed on fish resources (possibly with some overlap with residents including halibut - Jones, 2006 - but also distinct prey; Krahn *et al*, 2007), and sighting data indicates a largely but not exclusively pelagic distribution, (likely overlapping with both 'transient' and 'resident' ecotypes in some regions; Dahlheim *et al*, 2008), while the residents are more dependent on coastal resources. The average group size is larger and adult body size smaller for offshores than for either residents or transients, but data are based on just 59 sightings over 30 years (Dahlheim *et al*, 2008). Re-sightings of photographically identified pods revealed the potential for very large scale movement (>4,000km), greater than that so far conclusively documented for the other regional ecotypes (Dahlheim *et al*, 2008).

The first nuclear phylogenetic division within the North Pacific was between transients and offshores, followed by an apparently later division between offshores and residents. An earlier division between fish-eating and marine-mammal-eating ecotypes in

pelagic waters is reasonable if the nearshore habitat was unavailable at that time (under ice). Differences in dispersal range, social behaviour and prey choice between transients and offshores (Yurk *et al*, 2002) may have reinforced isolation. We suggest that dependence on learned behavior, likely transferred within social groups by tradition, serves to isolate populations of resource specialists, as discussed previously (Hoelzel *et al*, 2007). This may lead to local adaptation through disruptive selection and differentiation by drift among populations whose foraging behavior determines different spatial and temporal patterns of dispersion (e.g. Hoelzel *et al*. 2007, Riesch *et al*. 2012). The apparent conflict between ease of connectivity among these populations and their genetic differentiation may be explained by these processes. At the same time, when habitats change (as during the interglacial warming periods), changing resources may require changes in foraging strategies, and different foraging strategies that do not also lead to physical or temporal isolation need not lead to genetic differentiation (Hoelzel *et al*, 2007; de Bruyn *et al*, 2013). A recent study based on isotopic markers suggesting specialization among North Atlantic groups not clearly differentiated for nuclear or mtDNA markers (Foote *et al*, 2013) may be an example. Our data for the North Pacific suggests that in this case, life history and behavioural changes associated with resource use led to lineage differentiation between ecotypes, and the potential for incipient speciation.

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Conflict of Interest

The authors declare no conflict of interest.

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Titles and Legends to Figures

Figure 1. Bayesian phylogenetic trees of killer whale ecotypes for a) mitochondrial DNA and b) nuclear DNA obtained through RAD associated sequencing. Both trees were inferred using MRBAYES software. AT = Alaskan Transients; CT = Californian Transients; MI = Marion Island; ICE = Iceland; SR = Southern Residents; RUS = Russian residents; AR = Alaskan Residents; BS = Bering Sea; OS = Offshores.

Figure 2. Phylogeographical reconstruction of killer whale ancestral distributions and dispersal patterns based on a) mitochondrial DNA and b) nuclear DNA obtained through RAD associated sequencing. Inference was done in RASP software, using the Bayesian Binary MCMC method. Node numbers next to nodes refer to numbers given in Tables 1&2 and in Supplementary Figure 2. Numbers within some nodes refer to paths in map figures.

661 **Table 1.** Assignment probability for the reconstruction of ancestral distributions using the
662 software RASP, for key nodes of interest in the mitochondrial phylogeny (Figure 2).

Method	Region	Node 52	Node 45	Node 44	Node 43	Node 42	Node 32	Node 51
<i>S-Diva</i>	SO	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	NA	0	0	47.34	0	0	100	0
	NP	32.88	0	0	0	100	0	100
	SO\NA	8.25	31.11	0	0	0	0	0
	SO\NP	23.18	33.68	0	0	0	0	0
	NA\NP	14.13	1.19	52.66	100	0	0	0
	SO\NA\NP	21.56	34.02	0	0	0	0	0
<i>Bayesian Binary</i>	SO	8.53	43.11	0.49	0.10	0	0	0.01
	NA	6.09	24.73	90.75	80.49	0.40	99.27	0.02
	NP	68.88	14.04	1.61	4.90	92.23	0	98.4
	SO\NA	0.77	9.00	1.65	0.29	0	0.31	0
	SO\NP	8.72	5.11	5.37	0.02	0.08	0	0.37
	NA\NP	6.22	2.93	0.03	14.15	7.29	0.59	1.19
	SO\NA\NP	0.79	1.07	0.10	0.05	0.01	0	0

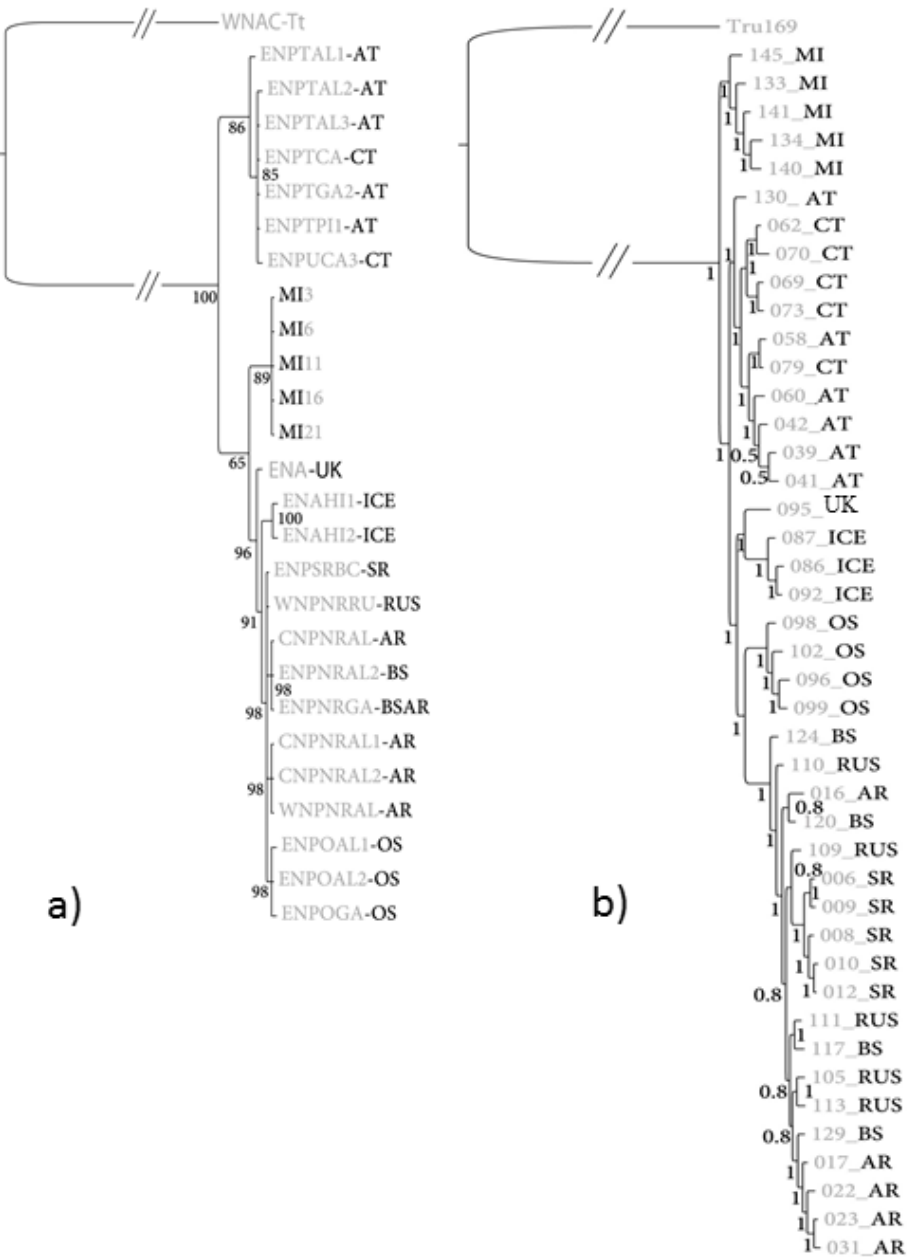
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664 **Table 2.** Assignment probability for the reconstruction of ancestral distributions using the
665 software RASP, for key nodes of interest in the nuclear phylogeny (Figure 2).

Method	Region	Node 86	Node 81	Node 80	Node 76	Node 85	Node 54	Node 79
<i>S-Diva</i>	SO	0	0	0	0	100	0	0
	NA	0	0	0	0	0	0	100
	NP	0	100	0	100	0	100	0
	SO\NA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	SO\NP	100	0	0	0	0	0	0
	NA\NP	0	0	100	0	0	0	0
	SO\NA\NP	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<i>Bayesian Binary</i>	SO	48.45	1.21	0.17	0	98.96	0	0.02
	NA	1.21	1.03	4.57	0.08	0.01	0.01	96.02
	NP	29.86	93.27	85.63	98	0.08	99.49	0.55
	SO\NA	0.77	0.03	0.02	0	0.09	0	0.13
	SO\NP	18.93	2.39	0.34	0.07	0.85	0.12	0
	NA\NP	0.47	2.03	9.24	1.73	0	0.36	3.27
	SO\NA\NP	0.30	0.05	0.04	0	0	0	0

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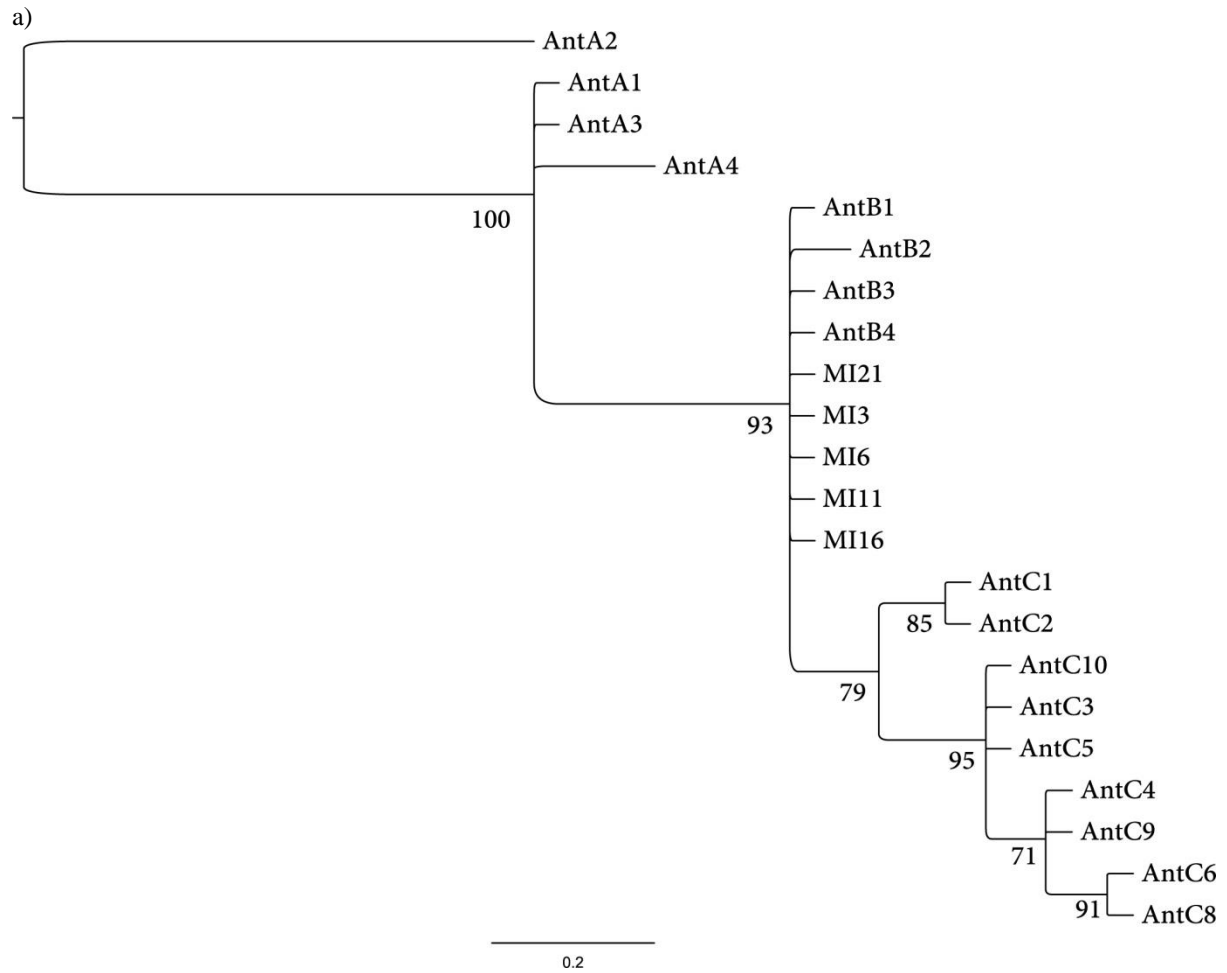
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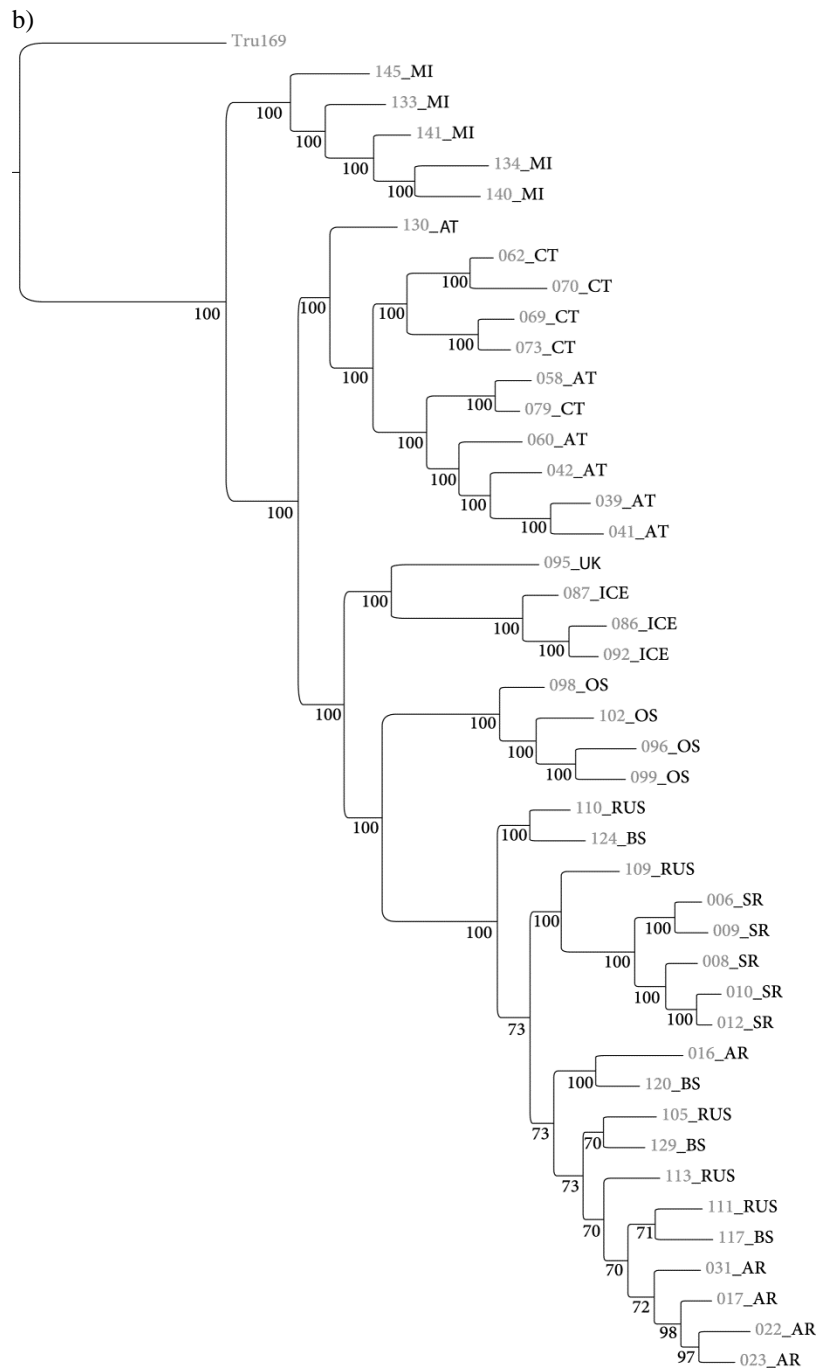
669

670 Figure 1

Supplementary Data

Figure S1: a) Bayesian phylogeny including mtDNA haplotypes from Marion Island and all unique Antarctic haplotypes from [1]. b) Construction of the RADtag sequence tree after removal of outlier loci for positive selection. c) Divergence dates for the nuclear phylogeny, based on a strict clock following the mutation rate calculated for odontocetes in [2]. Time is represented in 1 million year's units.





c)

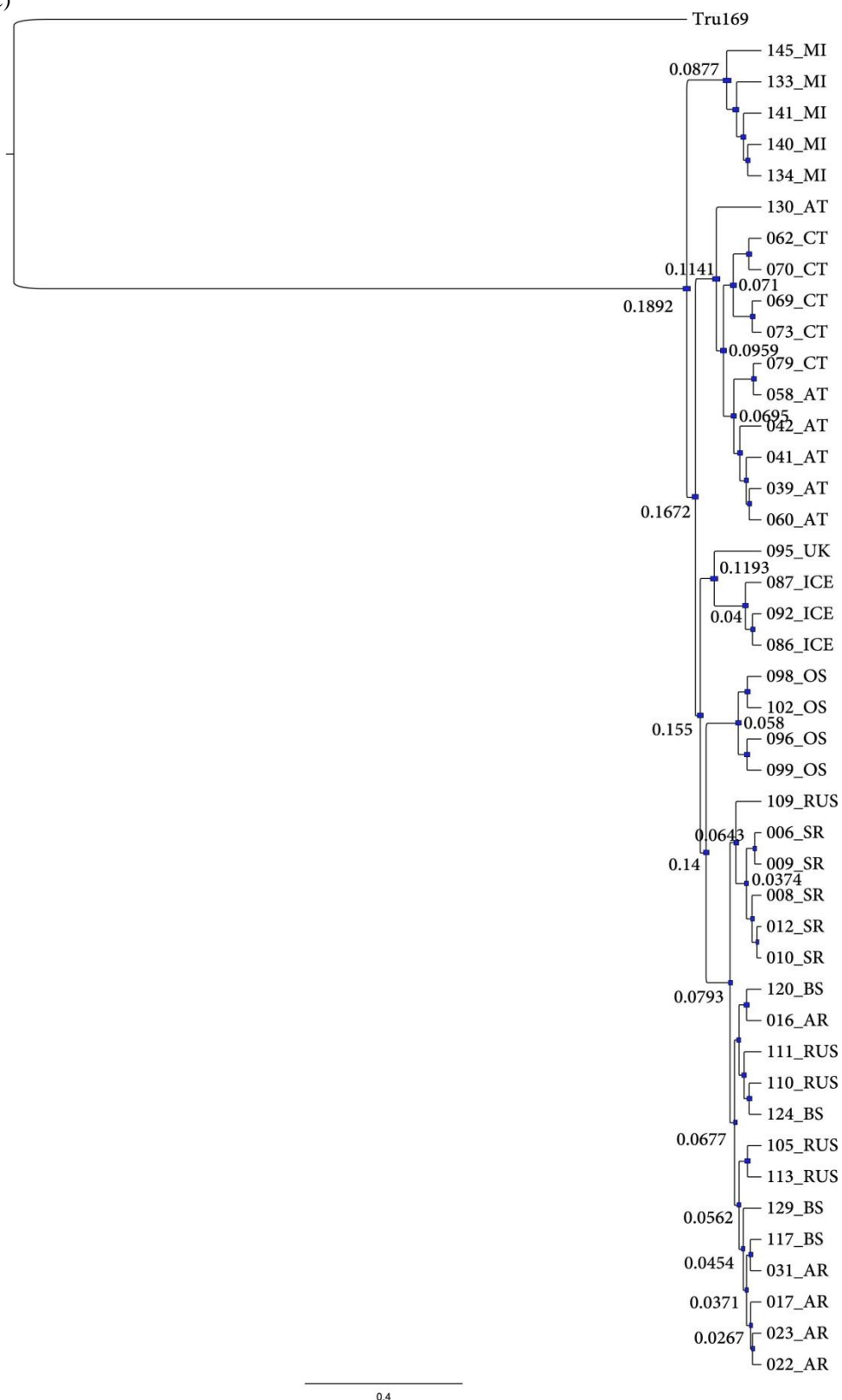
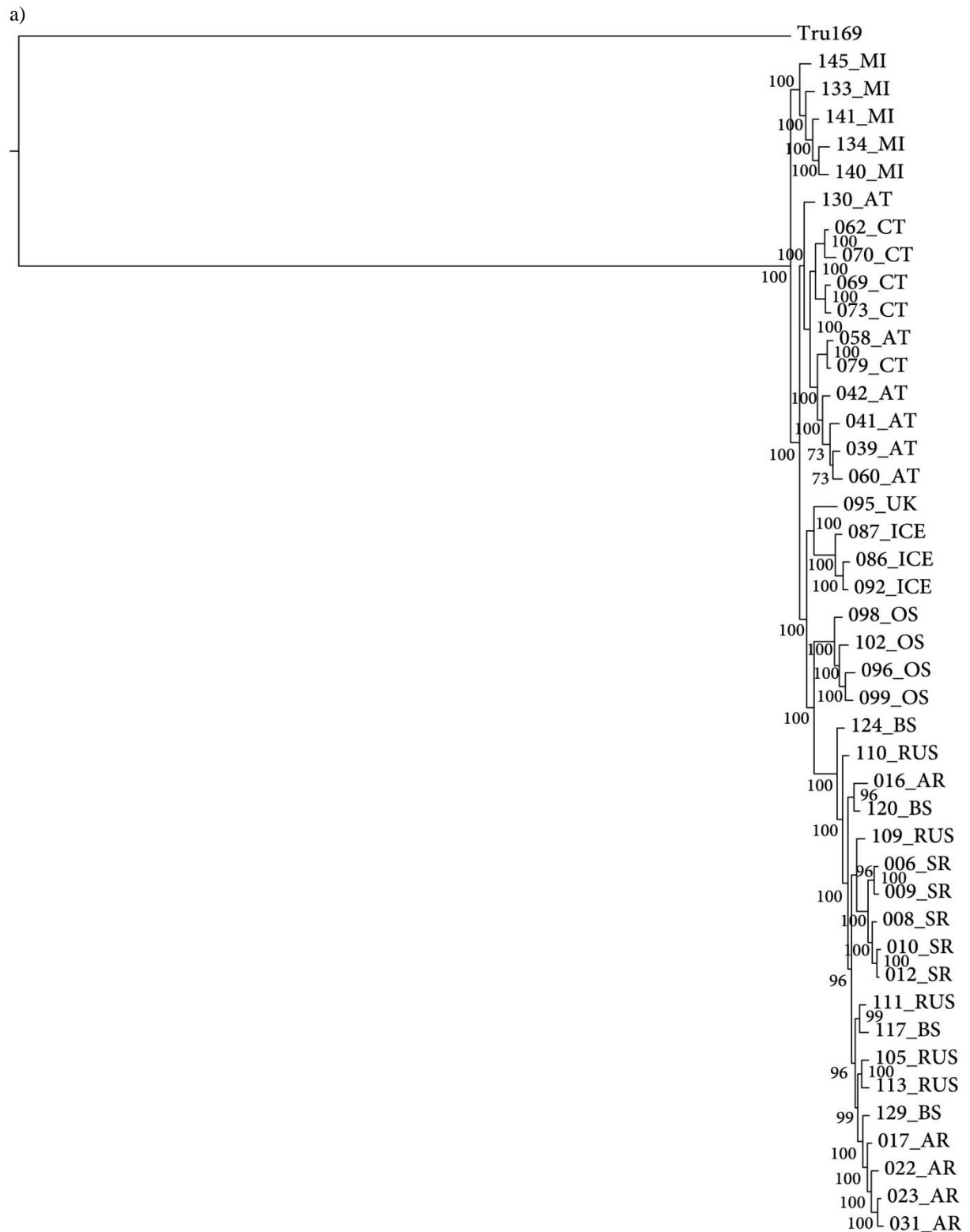
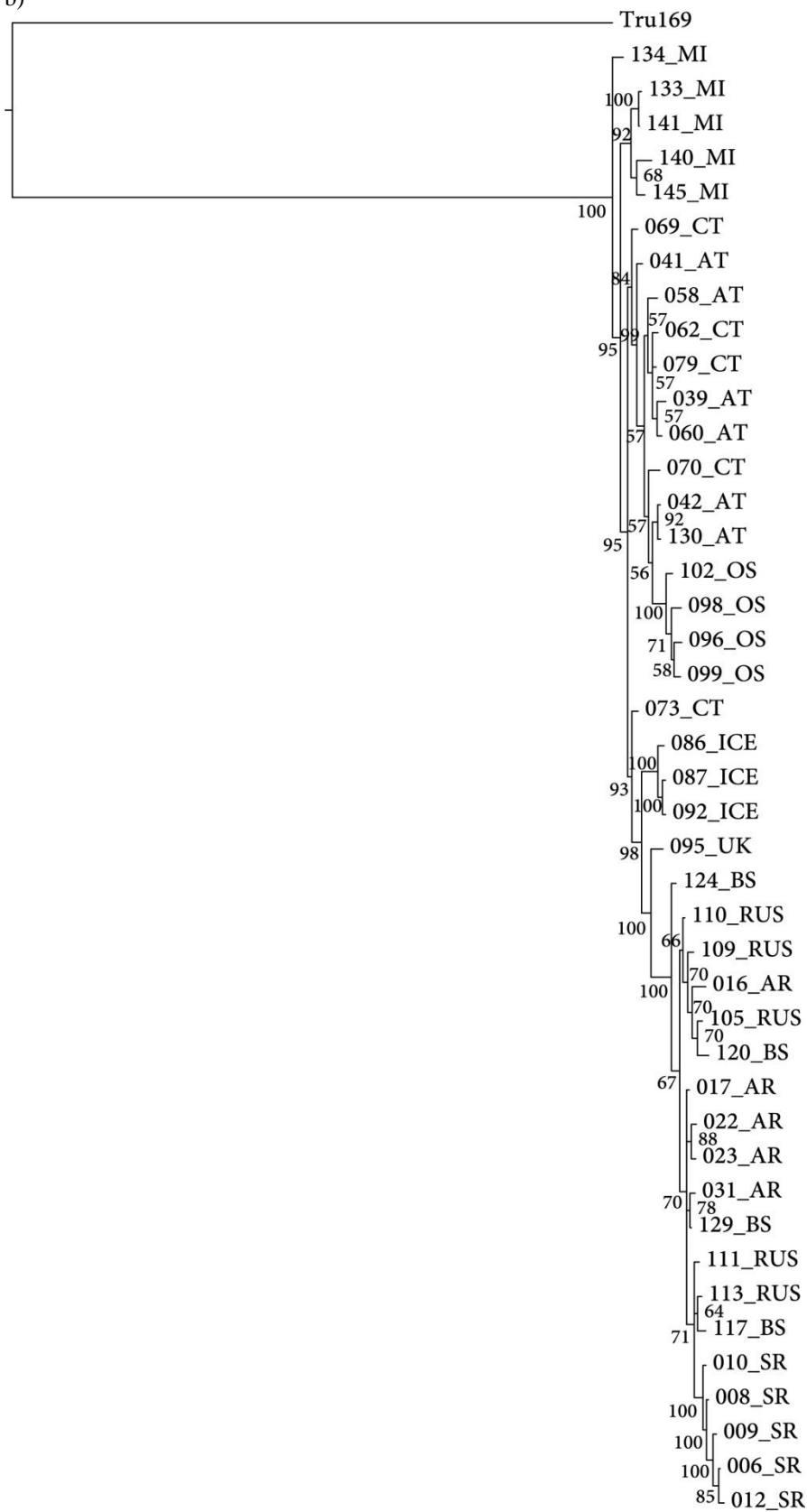


Figure S2: a) The nuclear phylogeny based on the full dataset partitioned for GC content. b) Nuclear phylogeny based on the AT-rich contigs. c) The nuclear tree reconstruction based on variable sites and the CAT-GTR model.



b)



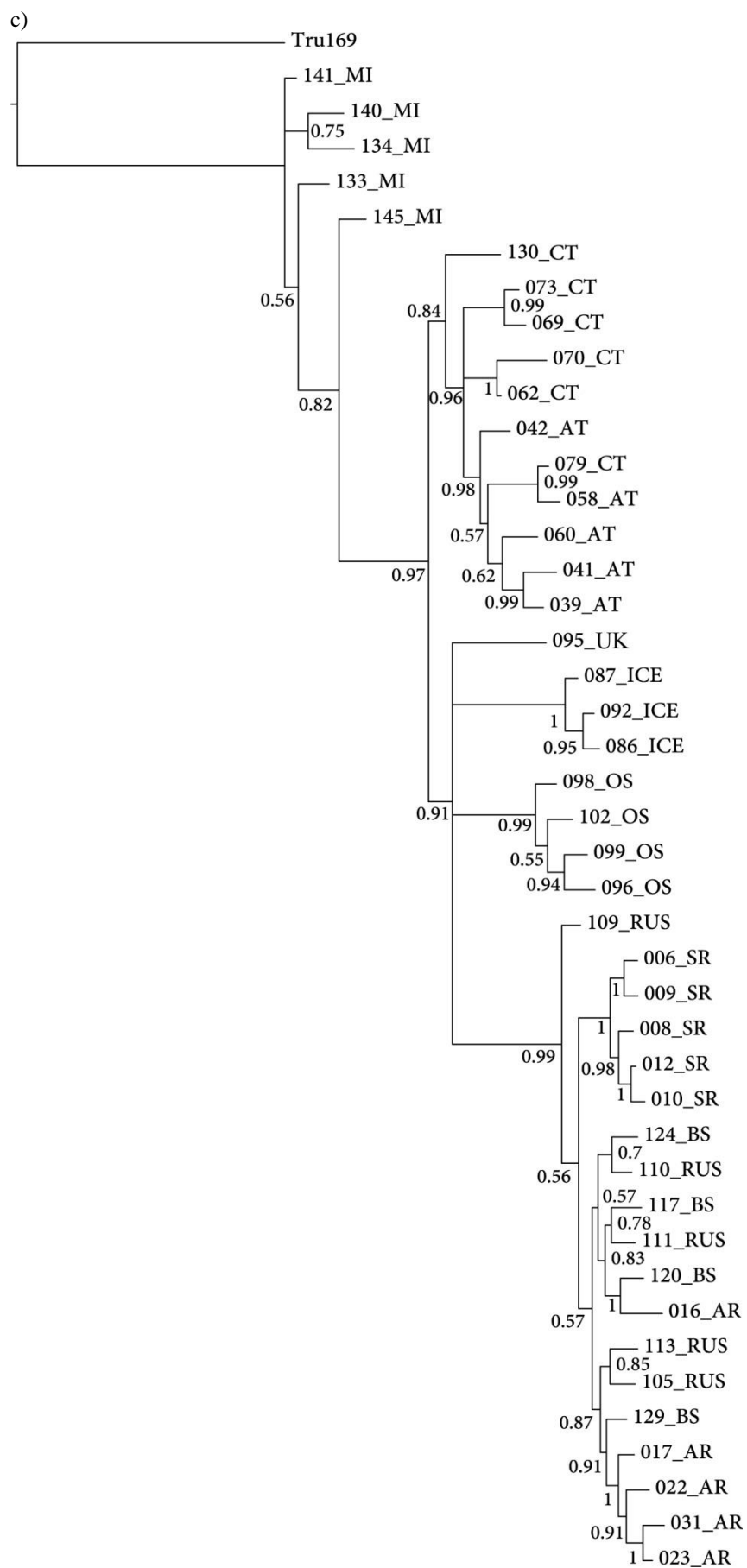
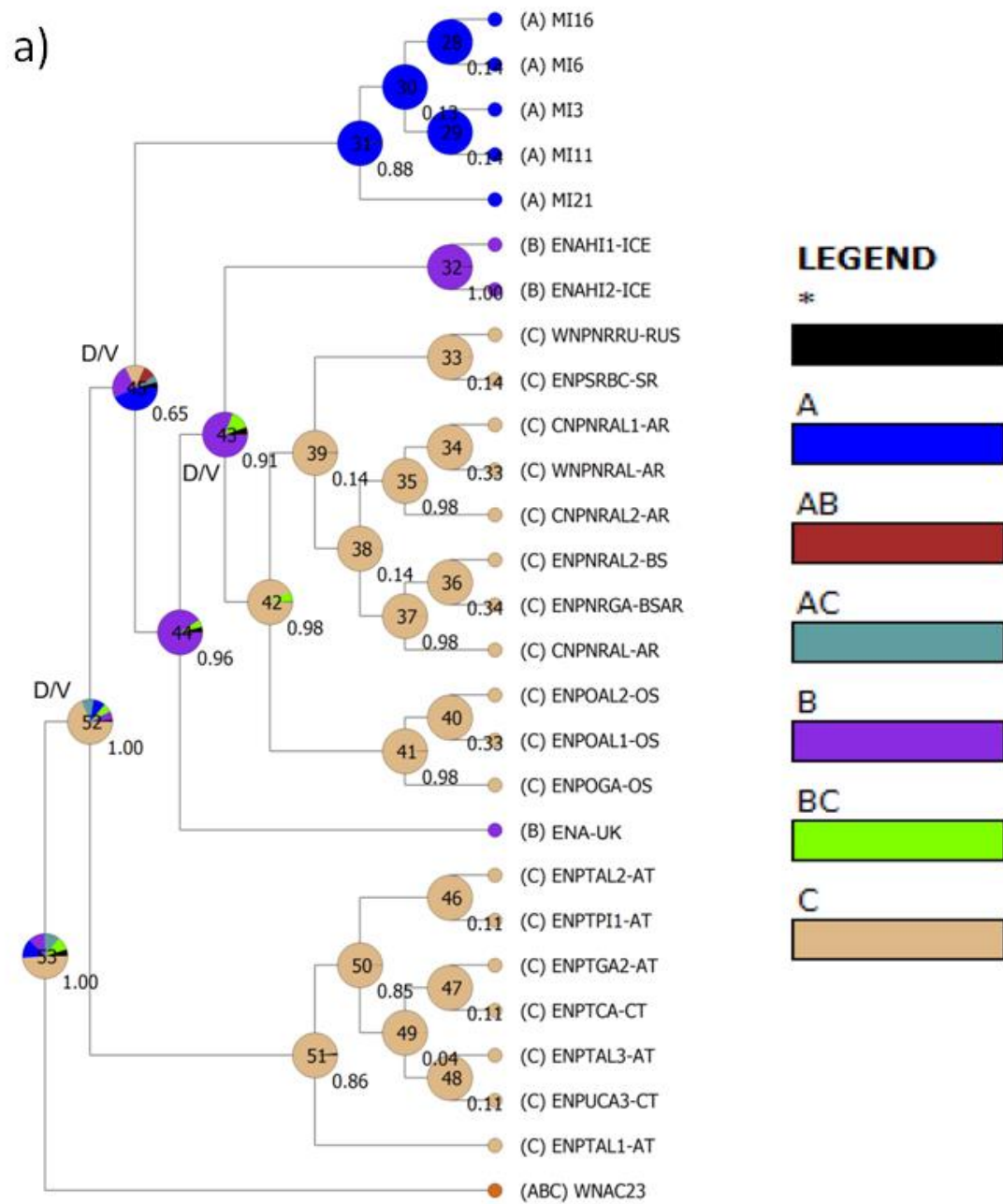
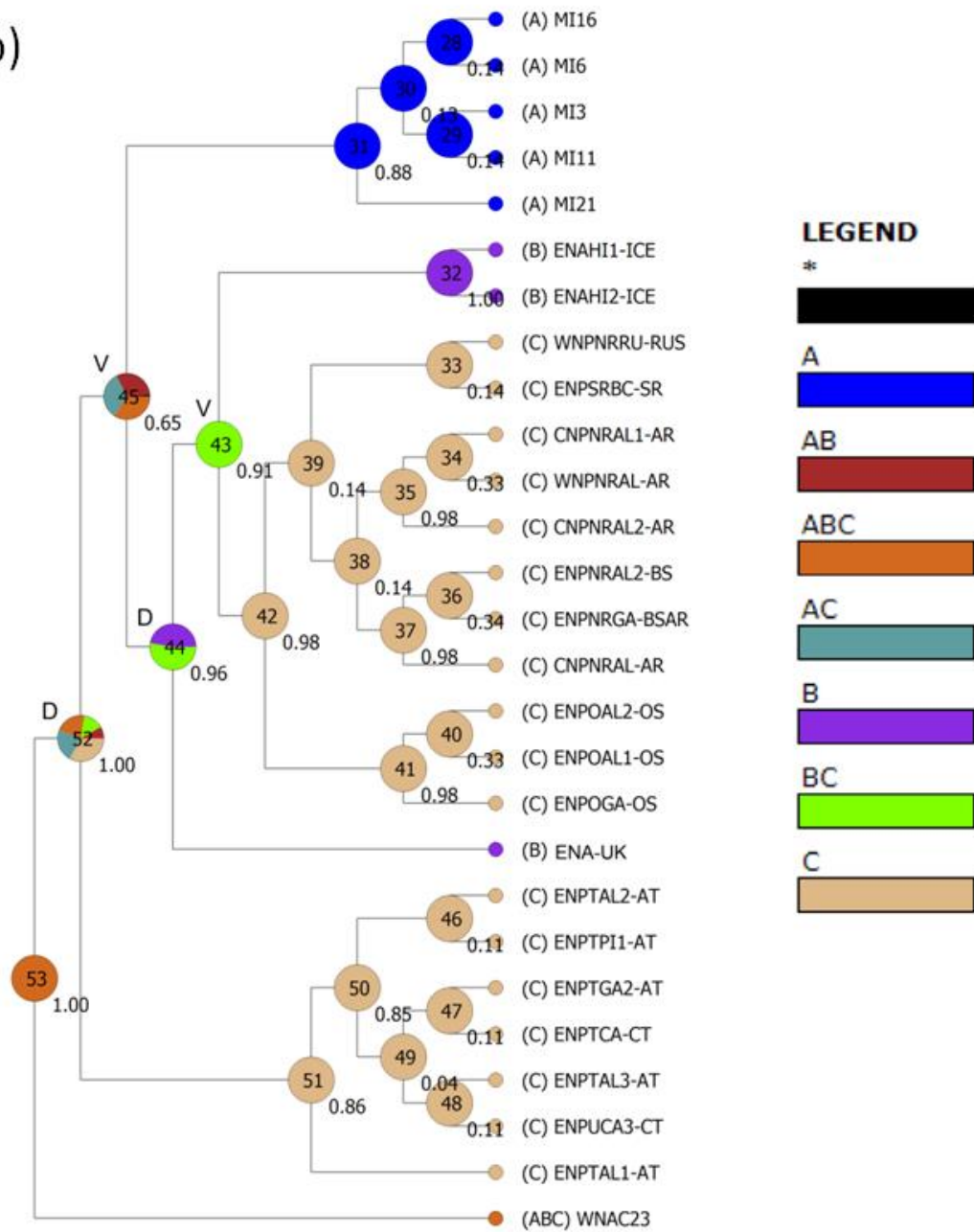


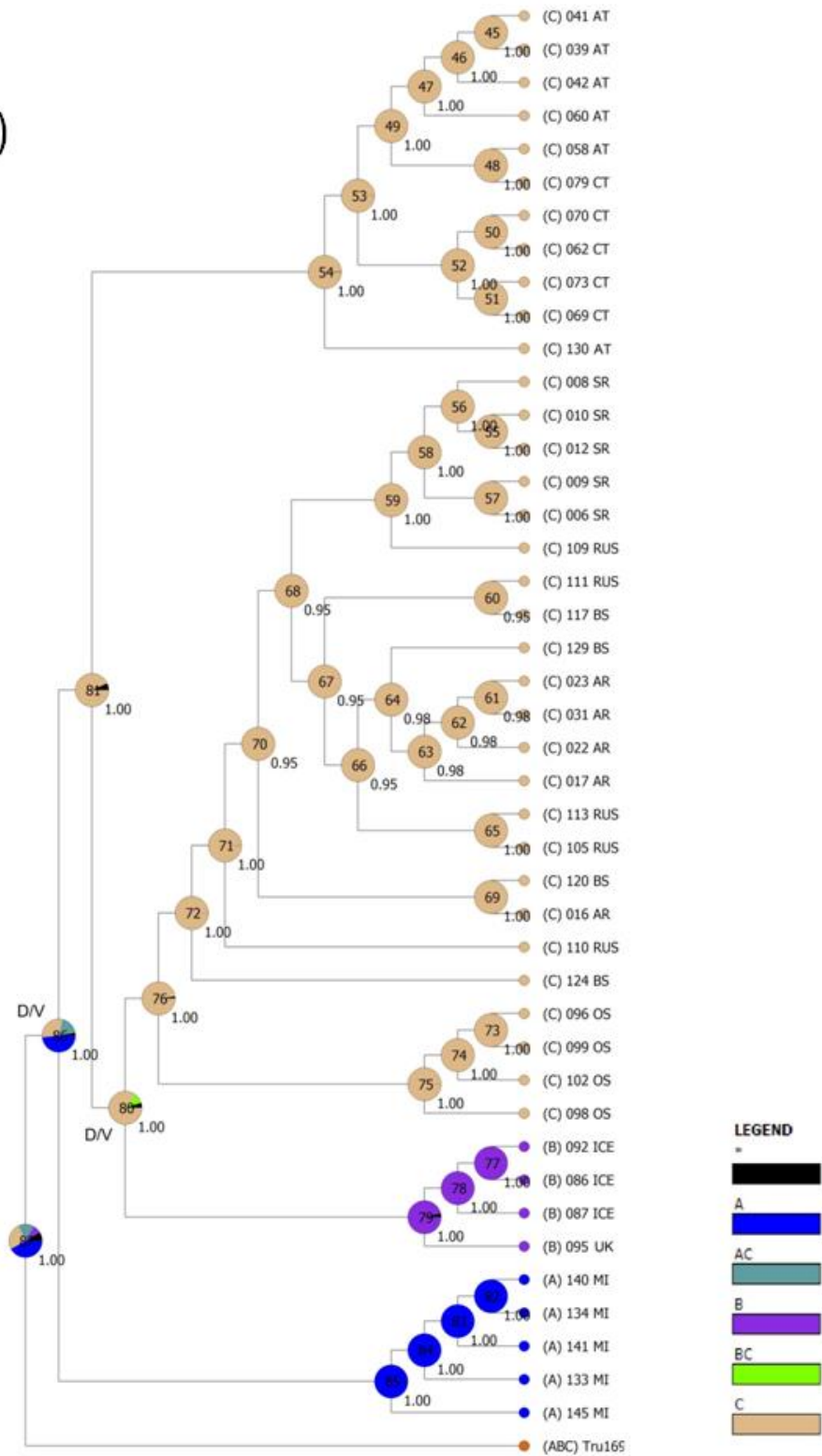
Figure S3: results from a) BB for mtDNA, b) S-DIVA for mtDNA, c) BB for the RADtag data, d) S-DIVA for the RADtag data.



b)



c)



d)

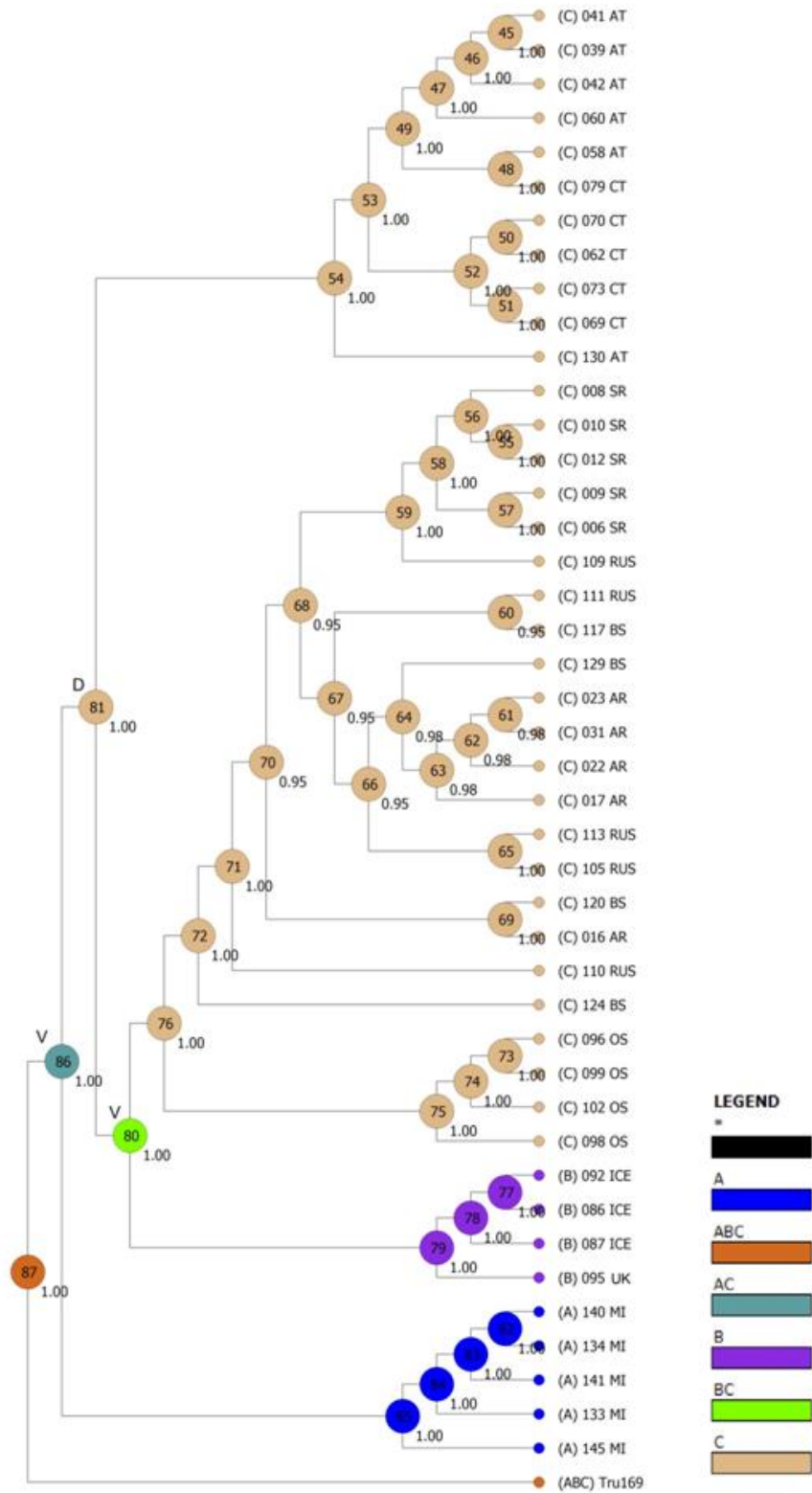


Table S1. Number of samples analysed per ecotype in the present study, for both mtDNA and nuclear data.

Marker	Ecotype description	Ecotype code	Number of samples
<i>mtDNA</i>	Alaska residents	AR	4
	Southern residents	SR	1
	Russian residents	RUS	1
	Bering Sea residents	BS	2
	Alaska transients	AT	5
	California transients	CT	2
	Pacific offshores	OS	3
	North Atlantic	ICE\UK	3
	Marion Island	MI	5
<i>RadTag</i>	Alaska residents	AR	5
	Southern residents	SR	5
	Russian residents	RUS	5
	Bering Sea residents	BS	4
	Alaska transients	AT	6
	California transients	CT	5
	Pacific offshores	OS	4
	North Atlantic	ICE\UK	4
	Marion Island	MI	5

Table S2. List of primers and specific PCR conditions used to amplify the mtDNA fragment used in this study.

mtDNA Region	Primers	[] primers	[] Mg ⁺	Taq	Annealing Temp
<i>Cyt B</i>	5'-ACGCCCACATCGGACGTRGC -3' 5'-CCAGCTTTGGGTGTTGGTGGTGA -3'	0.16 µM	1.3 mM	1.25 U	57
<i>Control region</i>	5'-TTCTACATAAACTATTCC -3' 5'-ATTTTCAGTGTCTTGCTTT -3'	0.16 µM	1 mM	0.5 U	43.7
<i>ND6</i>	5'- ARCTATACAACGCAGCAATCCC -3' 5'- CCTCAGGGTAGGACATAGCC -3'	0.16 µM	2 mM	0.5 U	60
<i>12S</i>	5'- ACAAGCCCCATAATGAAATTATACA - 3'	0.16 µM	2 mM	0.5 U	59
<i>16S</i>	5'-AAATAATTTAGTGTTGGGTTAT -3' 5'- AAGAATAGAATGCTTAATTG -3' 5'- AAATAGTTTAGTGTTAGGTTAT -3'	0.18 µM	1.5 mM	0.5 U	46

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2. Dornburg, A., Brandley, M.C., McGowen, M.R., and Near, T.J. (2012). Relaxed clocks and inferences of heterogeneous patterns of nucleotide substitution and divergence time estimates across whales and dolphins (Mammalia: Cetacea). *Mol Biol Evol* 29, 721-736.